

I would like to voice my objections to any consideration for the sanctioning of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) technology. My objections are based upon the following:

1. BPL will raise the radio noise level 30 dB or more above the galactic background, making low frequency radio astronomy impossible in any area where BPL is implemented. Low frequency radio astronomy has in recent years begun to take on a new levels of importance in studies of the engergetic processes of the universe. What BPL would do would be the equivalent to placing stadium lighting in the back yard of every optical telescope. By its nature, low frequency radio astronomy is not protected by the use of extremely narrow beamwidths. Even very large arrays will have unavoidable sidelobes which will be subject to high level BPL signals. Programs such as NASAs Jove Project which promotes scientific education through active participation by schools in the decametric monitoring of Jupiter will be deeply impacted.

2. BPL will deeply impact the Amateur Radio Service, in effect removing the the ability of of many amateurs to operate in the HF and VHF bands. The danger to this important service cannot be over emphasized. Here in Hawaii where we are in constant threat of volcanic activity and hurricanes, we desparately need the ARS for emergency communications. HF and VHF communications are, because of our remoteness, our only long distance alternatives. Removing these bands from the ARS toolbox could deplete our already limited pool of amateur radio operators.

3. Other technologies are available to provide broadband access to most potential users. These include, DSL, cable, wireless (microwave), and satellite systems. As many small internet access companies are making serious investments in providing service via wireless technology, and remote areas are beginning to come on line, BPL could spell doom for these efforts and seriously hurt these small business people. The large and powerful utility companies would gain financially while the small businessman would be again discouraged. Investment by cable and phone companies in extending or maintaining the reach of their internet access facilities will certainly be reconsidered and possibly curtailed if BPL is put on the table. Sanctioning of this technology could thus result in delaying or preventing some internet users from receiving broadband access where BPL is not implemented.

Thank you for your attention.